

**SA 1760.** Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

#### **TITLE VII—SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION VOUCHERS**

##### **SEC. 2701. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Small Business Innovation Voucher Act of 2021”.

##### **SEC. 2702. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(2) **PROGRAM.**—The term “Program” means the Innovation Voucher Grant Program established under section 2703(a).

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(4) **SMALL BUSINESS.**—The term “small business” means a business with 50 or fewer employees.

(5) **SMALL BUSINESS IN AN UNDERSERVED MARKET.**—The term “small business in an underserved market” means a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as defined in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C))) that is a small business (as defined in this section).

##### **SEC. 2703. INNOVATION VOUCHER GRANT PROGRAM.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this division, the Secretary shall, acting through the Director, establish a program under which the Secretary shall, on a competitive basis and in accordance with subsection (g), award to eligible entities grants or financial assistance in another form for the provision of technical assistance to small businesses to assist the small businesses in carrying out projects that advance research, development, or commercialization of new or innovative products and services.

(2) **PURPOSES OF PROGRAM.**—The purposes of the Program are—

(A) to foster collaboration between small businesses and research institutions or other similar organizations;

(B) to facilitate access by small businesses to capital-intensive infrastructure and advanced research capabilities;

(C) to enable small businesses to access technical expertise and capabilities that will lead to the development of innovative products;

(D) to promote business dynamism and competition;

(E) to stimulate United States leadership in advanced research, innovation, and technology;

(F) to accelerate the development of an advanced workforce; and

(G) to preserve and create new jobs.

(3) **DESIGNATION.**—The program established under paragraph (1) shall be known as the “Innovation Voucher Grant Program”.

(b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of the Program, an eligible entity is an entity that the Director determines—

(A) is—

(i) an institution of higher education, as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); or

(ii) a nonprofit research lab, institution, or other similar organization in the United States associated with educational or research activities, including a federally funded research and development center; and

(B) according to terms that the Director considers appropriate, is a suitable provider of knowledge for purposes of the program.

(2) **GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.**—In determining whether entities are suitable providers of knowledge under paragraph (1)(B), the Director shall seek to establish geographic diversity among eligible entities.

(c) **APPLICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible entity seeking a grant or other financial assistance under the Program to assist the eligible entity in providing technical assistance to small businesses shall, in conjunction with one or more small businesses, submit to the Secretary an application therefor at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(2) **DEADLINE.**—The Secretary shall establish a deadline for the submittal of applications under paragraph (1).

(3) **SELECTION.**—Not later than 180 days after the deadline established under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall select the recipients of the grants or other financial assistance under the Program.

(d) **EVALUATION.**—In evaluating an application for a grant or other financial assistance under the Program, the Secretary shall take into consideration—

(1) the likelihood that the amounts of the grant or financial assistance will be used to create or advance a novel product or service;

(2) the technical feasibility of creating or advancing a novel product or service proposed to be created or advanced using technical assistance provided with assistance under the Program; and

(3) whether creating or advancing a product or service proposed to be created or advanced using technical assistance supported by a grant under the Program could be accomplished without a grant awarded under the Program.

(e) **AMOUNT.**—A grant or other financial assistance awarded under the Program shall be awarded in an amount of not less than \$20,000 and not more than \$75,000, which shall remain available to the recipient of the grant until expended.

(f) **AMOUNTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except to the extent that the Secretary determines otherwise, not less than 40 percent of the amounts made available for the Program in a fiscal year shall be set aside and expended through eligible entities providing technical assistance to—

(A) small businesses in underserved markets; or

(B) small businesses in regions or States that have historically been underserved by Federal research and development funds.

(2) **REMAINING AMOUNT.**—Any amount that is set aside under paragraph (1) in a fiscal year that is not expended by the end of the fiscal year shall be—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), available in the following fiscal year to make grants to eligible entities described in paragraph (1); and

(B) on and after October 1, 2024, available to award grants to all eligible entities under the Program.

(g) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may not award a grant to an eligible entity under the Program to provide technical assistance to a small business unless the eligible entity agrees that, with respect to the costs to be

incurred by the eligible entity in providing such technical assistance, the eligible entity will make available non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to—

(A) in the case of an award in an amount that is less than \$50,000, not less than 25 percent of the amount of the award; and

(B) in the case of an award in an amount that is equal to or greater than \$50,000, not less than 50 percent of the amount of the award.

(2) **SOURCES OF NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.**—Non-Federal contributions under paragraph (1) may be derived from non-Federal contributions provided by the eligible entity, the small business, or from such State and local government sources as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(h) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **REPORTS FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a project carried out with technical assistance provided with support from a grant or other financial assistance awarded under the Program is completed, the recipient of the grant or other financial assistance shall submit to the Secretary a report on the project, including—

(A) whether and how the project met the original expectations for the project;

(B) how the results of the project were incorporated in the business of the small business; and

(C) whether and how the project improved innovation practices of the small business.

(2) **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Secretary establishes the Program, and every 2 years thereafter until the date on which the amounts appropriated for the Program are expended, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on grants and other financial assistance awarded under the Program, including—

(A) a description of the grants and financial assistance awarded;

(B) the estimated number of products or services created or advanced with technical assistance supported by a grant or other financial assistance awarded under the Program that could have been created or advanced without a grant or financial assistance awarded under the Program; and

(C) a description of the impact of the Program on knowledge transfer and commercialization.

(3) **FINAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which amounts appropriated for the Program are expended, the Secretary shall submit to the committees described in paragraph (2) a final report containing the information described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of that paragraph.

##### **SEC. 2704. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the Program \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain available until expended.

**SA 1761.** Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes;